

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. CONCERN WITH DESTRUCTION FROM SENDAI EARTHQUAKE INTERRUPTED ONLY BRIEFLY MEDIA ATTENTION THIS WEEK TO SIGNS OF TIDAL MOVEMENTS IN MAJOR POWER RELATIONS GLOBALLY, ESPECIALLY IN WAKE OF PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH, UNFOLDING US-CHINA RELATIONS AND FIRM SCHEDULING OF JAPAN-CHINA TALKS ON PFT. MEDIA HAVE REPORTED SOME OF WORLDWIDE COMMENT ON ANNAPOLIS SPEECH AND HAVE THEMSELVES DISCUSSED WHAT IT PORTENDS FOR DETENTE (SEE TOKYO 10850). IN THIS CONTEXT, WE CONTINUE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WHERE KEY GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIC AND MEDIA ANALYSTS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SHARE VIEWS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND U.S. ASIAN POLICY WITH VISITING U.S. SPECIALISTS. SESSIONS WITH MIT'S WILLIAM GRIFFITH AT MOFA-SPONSORED THINK TANK AND WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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CORE GROUP AT PAO RESIDENCE VERY USEFUL IN INTERPRETING BACKGROUND CLIMATE AND SUBSTANCE OF ANNAPOLIS SPEECH AND SURFACING JAPANESE THINKING ON THIS. SIMILAR SESSIONS WITH REGIONAL SPECIALISTS IN HIROSHIMA AND KYOTO HAVE GONE EXTREMELY WELL. CURRENTLY UNDER WAY ARE GRIFFITH PROGRAMS AT HOKKAIDO UNIV. SLAVIC RESEARCH CENTER, WHERE NATIONAL DEFENSE ACADEMY DIRECTOR INOKI IS SHARING PODIUM.

WE CONTINUE TO DISTRIBUTE ANNAPOLIS TEXTS TO PARTICIPANTS OF THESE MEETINGS.

2. IN MORE LIMITED SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS, FORMERLASSIFIED

UNDERSECRETARY U. ALEXIS JOHNSON IS DISCUSSING WITH KEY CRITICS AND OPINION LEADERS PROBLEMS OF NEGOTIATING WITH USSR, ASPECTS OF SALT THAT HELP DEFINE CHARACTER OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND WAYS THAT OUR SOVIET POLICY AFFECTS U.S. CONCERNS ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING ASIA. AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S DISCUSSIONS HERE ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE BECAUSE OF HIS LONG TIES WITH JAPAN AND HIS LONG EXPERIENCE OF DEALING WITH CHINESE AND RUSSIANS.

3. WE WERE PLEASED TO FIND OUR BIMONTHLY "TRENDS" QUOTED IN FRONT-PAGE COLUMN OF INFLUENTIAL DAILY "NIHON KEIZAI" (1.7 MILLION CIRCULATION AND SOME FOUR MILLION READERS). TREATING "BREAKDOWN OF RULES OF DETENTE BETWEEN SUPER-POWERS," COLUMNIST CONTRASTED U.S. VIEW OF DETENTE AS DESCRIBED BY JAMES CHACE IN "TRENDS" NO. 40 ARTICLE AND SOVIET VIEW AS SEEN IN BREZHNEV STATEMENT.

4. SECOND IMPORTANT ASPECT OF U. ALEXIS JOHNSON VISIT HAS BEEN HIS SOUNDING OUT JAPANESE REACTIONS TO HIS IDEA OF HAVING JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON PROVIDE UNCLASSIFIED

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READY FORUM FOR ARTICULATE JAPANESE TO SPEAK TO AMERICAN PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY TO KEY FIGURES IN WASHINGTON. FORMER UNDERSECRETARY'S OWN CONTACTS AND THOSE WE ARRANGED FOR HIM HAVE SHOWN KEEN INTEREST AND APPRECIATION FOR THIS APPROACH TO REDUCING GAP IN BILATERAL COMMUNICATIONS.

5. WE ARE PROCEEDING THIS WEEK ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRILATERAL EDITORS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS SCHEDULED FOR LATE FALL (SEE LAST WEEK'S HILITES). JAPANESE SIDE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF EC AND ICA EFFORTS IN BRUSSELS WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL PAVE WAY FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ECONOMIC AS WELL AS STRATEGIC ISSUES. PARIS RESPONSE (PARIS 18649) TO PROPOSALS ON TOPICS AND SPEAKERS FROM JAPANESE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ECONOMIC EDITORS LAST WEEK VERY HELPFUL FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. FORMER UNDERSECRETARY JOHNSON THIS WEEK ALSO UNDERSCORED NEED FOR BETTER THREE-WAY COMMUNICATION INVOLVING EURO, JAPANESE AND OURSELVES ADDRESSING ISSUES BEFORE THEY BECOME POLITICAL PROBLEMS. JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH JOHNSON EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT "IMAGE PROBLEM" AND WELCOME OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON BROADER BASIS IN U.S. AND EUROPEAN FORUMS. ICA CAN PLAY EFFECTIVE FACILITATIVE ROLE IN THIS CONNECTION. FORSTER

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